

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. With entry of the amendments made herein, claims 1, 3, 4, and 6-11 will be pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, and 4 are amended. Claims 2 and 5 are canceled. Claim 11, added herein, is a claim that depends from claim 4 and recites the subject matter of claim 3, which depends from claim 1. Claims 6-10 are withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 2 and 4 were objected to on the grounds that they recite allowable subject matter, but depend from a rejected claim, namely, claim 1. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2, and also is amended to recite positive method steps. The latter action is intended to cure the objection to claim 1 on the grounds that claim 1 was not in proper method claim format. In view of the actions described above, claim 1 is believed to be in condition of allowance.

Claim 4 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 1, as amended herein, but does not include the subject matter of claim 2. Claim 4 is believed to be in condition of allowance, in view of the favorable comments made in the Office Action concerning same.

Claims 1 and 5 are subject to a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), based on Kimio (JP 63290640). Claim 3 is subject to a rejection under 35

U.S.C. § 103(a), based on Kimio in view of Baumgartner, U.S. Patent No. 6,783,190. Claim 5 is canceled herein. It is believed that the incorporation of claim 2 into claim 1, and the rewriting of claim 4 as an independent claim that incorporates all limitations of claim 1, overcomes the rejections under sections 102(b) and 103(a).

In view of the actions discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition of allowance.

#### **REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

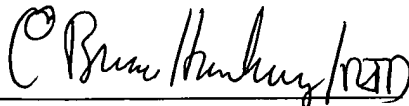
Applicant respectfully requests a one month extension of time for responding to the Office Action. The fee of \$130.00 for the extension is provided for in the charge authorization presented in the PTO Form 2038, Credit Card Payment form, provided herewith.

If there is any discrepancy between the fee(s) due and the fee payment authorized in the Credit Card Payment Form PTO-2038 or the Form PTO-2038 is missing or fee payment via the Form PTO-2038 cannot be processed, the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge any fee(s) or fee(s) deficiency or credit any excess payment to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

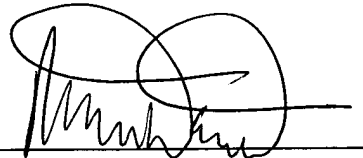
Respectfully submitted,

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